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**BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON.**

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# **Annual Report**

**of the**

## **Medical Officer of Health**

**for the Year, 1944.**

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**King, Printer, Lymington.**



TOWN HALL,  
LYMINGTON,  
April, 1945.

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH LYMINGTON.**

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Lymington during 1944.

The restrictions on the publication of certain statistics and communication to the Press etc. are now removed, and the report may be circularised as before.

**Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

The normal peace-time inhabitants of the District were mainly of the residential class, or engaged in building or agricultural pursuits. The war has, however, changed the activities of the area, and a large proportion of the population is now engaged on work of national importance in factories and in agriculture.

The expected development of the Borough as a residential area has naturally been at a standstill owing to the war, but there are evidences that when building activities become normal, rapid development in this direction will take place; the sewerage scheme which was completed soon after the war broke out will, no doubt, stimulate this.

The longevity of the inhabitants as shown by the deaths returns, and the absence of any major epidemics during the war is evidence of the healthy nature of the Borough as a whole.

**Details of the District :—**

	1944
Area (in acres) ...	13,730 (Mudland included 15,302 acres)
Population ...	19,680
Number of inhabited Houses	7,000 approx.
Rateable Value ...	£167,416
Sum represented by a penny Rate	£655



## VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births	330	154	176	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident pop. ... 18.8
Still Births				
Legitimate	10	7	3	Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) ... 28.8
Illegitimate	1	—	1	
Deaths	269	120	149	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 13.66

The death rate of England and Wales is ... 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—	Deaths.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes ...	Nil
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	26.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	24.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	24.4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	48
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

The chief causes of death were :—

Nephritis ...	10	Pulm. Tuberculosis ...	7
Malignant Disease ...	48	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	35
Heart Disease ...	67	Congenital Debility and premature births ...	5
Pneumonia and Bronchitis ...	20		

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### (1) Public Health Officers :—

- (a) Medical Officer of Health (part time—temporary) :  
E. Croft Watts, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.
- (b) Senior Sanitary Inspector :  
N. Raw, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
- (c) Additional Sanitary Inspector  
Post Vacant.

## (2) General Health Services;—

- (a) Laboratory facilities. No change.  
Examinations being made at the Hampshire County Laboratories
- (b) Ambulance facilities remain the same; the Council has its own ambulance for the removal of infectious cases, and non-infectious cases are removed by the St. John's Ambulance Association. There is one ambulance serving the Lymington area, and another the New Milton district. The Ambulance Service is efficient and adequate,
- (c) Clinics or treatment Centres have been provided through the County Authority and are administered by the Health Department of that Authority. There is one Ante-Natal Clinic in Lymington and there are Child Welfare Centres at Hordle, Lymington, Milford-on-Sea, New Milton and Pennington. Among other matters the Clinics and Centres provide for dental treatment, extra nourishment to expectant mothers, and facilities are also available for abnormal maternity cases,

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply:—

Lymington Town obtains its supply from the Corporation owned works at Ampress assisted by a supply from the West Hampshire Water Company. The other parts of the Borough are supplied by the West Hampshire Water Company, who continue to provide the Health Department with copies of the analyst's reports on samples taken. Some few wells are still in use in the more rural parts of the Borough.

Generally speaking, the water supply has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity

With regard to the water supplied from the Ampress Works, 4 samples have been taken during the year; three were satisfactory, and one was stated "Not to be up to standard for a Public Supply." One sample only was taken of the raw water, and this was satisfactory. The other three samples were taken from the taps. Instructions have been given for continuous chlorination of the supply from Ampress Works. No chemical analysis was made during the year.

Regarding the water supplied by the West Hampshire Water Company all the analyst's reports were satisfactory.

Seven samples of well water supplies have been taken; three of these showed evidence of pollution, and in each case



the premises concerned have been connected with the main water supply.

With very few exceptions the water is supplied direct to the houses from the public water mains, but there are a few standpipes and wells in use,

### **Drainage and Sewerage:—**

The greater part of the Borough has main drainage facilities available, and considering war-time restrictions, satisfactory progress continues in the connection of properties to the new sewer which was completed in 1942. Much work, however, remains to be done to improve house drainage conditions, particularly in those districts where the new sewer has been laid.

I wish specially to mention the drainage conditions at St. Marks Road, Pennington. The conditions here have been unsatisfactory for a very long time; the cesspool drainage systems to the properties giving rise to serious nuisances. During the winter months most of the gardens are waterlogged, and the sewage from the cesspools either lies on the gardens, or empties into the ditches close to the houses. It is imperative for main drainage to be provided. The conditions have been appreciated by the Council for a very long time, but war-time difficulties have prevented any permanent remedy. Steps have now been taken to provide proper drainage facilities, and I hope this matter will be cleared up before another winter.

### **ANALYSIS OF SEWER CONNECTIONS.**

District	Number of Properties Connected					Totals
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	
New Milton ...	—	5	—	1	—	6
Milford-on-Sea ...	12	—	41	10	10	73
Everton and Hordle ...	39	36	6	10	7	98
Pennington ...	24	63	8	12	7	114
Total connections to new sewer ...	75	104	55	33	24	291
„ to old sewer ...	16	4	1	2	5	28
Total Connections ...	91	108	56	35	29	319

### **Public Cleansing :—**

The collection and disposal of refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department, and the collection of refuse and salvage on alternate weeks, appears to be working satisfactorily, Special additional collections are made at

certain premises where refuse is accumulated more rapidly than is normal at private houses or business premises.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping at sites in New Milton, Lymington and Milford-on-Sea.

Thirty-six visits were made regarding the provision of proper sanitary bins for refuse, sixteen premises required new bins, and during the year thirteen of these were provided.

## PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS.

The shipping entering the Port consisted of

	Motor	Sailing
Coastwise Vessels ...	104	—
Foreign Vessels ...	—	--

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections made during 1944 .—

	Inspections	Defects	Notices		Defects Remedied
			Inf.	Formal	
Dairies and Cowsheds ...	193	29	—	—	25
Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yards ...	31	2	—	—	2
Inspections of Food ...	301	—	—	—	—
Inspection of Shops ...	62	1	1	—	1
Factories (including Bakehouses) ...	80	13	—	—	8
Disinfestations ...	26	2	—	—	2
Drainage ...	165	32	—	—	28
Housing and House Repairs	203	44	1	2	31
Dustbins ...	36	16	—	—	13
Complaints and Nuisances ...	205	62	—	1	61
Moveable Dwellings ...	11	—	—	—	—
Water Supplies ...	13	—	—	—	—
Water Samples ...	11	4	—	—	4
Milk Samples ...	32	19	—	—	19
Rats and Mice ...	455	173	—	—	173 x
Infectious Diseases ...	25	—	—	—	—
Disinfections ...	21	—	—	—	—
Food D/C ...	10	—	—	—	—
Scabies ...	23	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria Immunisations	69	—	—	—	—
Schools ...	12	—	—	—	—
Refuse Sites ...	50	1	—	—	1
Unclassified ...	18	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	2052	398	2	3	368

x indicates that treatment was given.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

A total of 80 visits were made during the year, and action was required in 13 cases as follows:—

Unclean Sanitary Conveniences	...	4	Remedied	2
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	1	„	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	...	2	„	2
Unsatisfactory Water Supply	...	1	„	1
Insufficient Ventilation to Sanitary Facilities	...	4	„	3
Unclean Workroom	...	1	„	—

Of the defects outstanding, some were remedied in 1945.

The defect outstanding in the 1943 report was remedied early in 1944.

## COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

205 visits were required in investigating complaints and nuisances, 62 defects were found, and the details of these are as follows:—

Defective Drains	...	28	Remedied	27
Foul or Choked Ditches	...	8	„	8
Defective Sanitary Fittings	...	2	„	2
Housing Defects	...	6	„	6
Insanitary Accumulations	...	8	„	8
Other Matters	...	10	„	10

Following complaints, twenty other cases had to be investigated, but no action in these was required.

## Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 87 Registered Dairies in the District, and taking war conditions into consideration, a satisfactory position is being maintained. The farmers are doing their best to comply with the Milk and Dairies Orders, and with few exceptions, are to be congratulated on the high standard attained under difficult circumstances.



Improvements to dairy farms continue to be made, and the following were completed during 1944 :—

Reconstruction of Cowsheds	...	2
„ „ Cowshed Floors	...	3
„ „ Yard	...	3

Licenses under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations have been issued by the County Council as follows :—

Accredited Milk	...	27 (Increase of 11 over 1943)
T.T. Tested Milk	...	6 (Same as 1943)

Under the same Regulations the Council has issued four bottling Licences (3—T.T. Milk and 1 Accredited Milk) and nine dealers Licences for T.T. Milk.

Defects found during the year were :—

Lack of Limewashing	...	8	Unclean Milking Stools	...	5
Unclean Floors	...	8	Unclean Approaches	...	3
Defective Drains	...	4	Defective Yard	...	1

Four of the defects were still outstanding at the end of the year.

Thirty-three samples of milk were taken, and of these thirteen were satisfactory, one sample was broken in transit, the remainder being unsatisfactory. The sources of supply were from farms in the Borough, and from outside the Borough. Following efforts made at the farms concerned both in the Borough and outside, there has been an improvement in the quality of Milk from the places. It appears likely that the adverse reports in some cases were due to the delay in the samples reaching the laboratory.

## **MEAT, SLAUGHTER HOUSES, FOOD STORES, etc.**

There are five Licensed slaughterhouses and two Licensed Knackers Yards in the district. Practically all the home killed meat sold in the area is from animals slaughtered in Government Slaughter-houses in the Bournemouth area, where the meat is subject to inspection prior to delivery to the butchers shops.

In three cases only was action required regarding defects, in all cases it was lack of cleanliness, and the conditions were remedied, one after the service of an Informal Notice.

Considerable time was spent in the examination of food-stuffs and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

Beef	Tuberculosis	6lbs. 5ozs.
„	Putrefaction, etc.	422½lbs.
Pork	„	54lbs.
Hams	„	50½lbs.
Bacon	Rancid etc.	494½lbs.
Veal	Emaciation	31lbs.
Sausages	Sour	60lbs.
Fish (various)	Decay	457½st.
Cheese	Out of condition	35½lbs.
Butter	„	11½lbs.
Margarine	„	10½lbs.
Flour	Spoilt by Water & Oil	72lbs.
Bread	Stale	44 x 2lb. loaves
		12 x 1lb. „
Split Peas	Out of condition	53½lbs.
Pearl Barley	„	8lbs.
Lentils	„	14½lbs.
Cereals	„	4—8oz. packets
Oranges	„	49lbs.
Carrots	Mouldy	3 cwt.
Tins of meat	Blown, punctured etc.	110
„ „ fish	„	124
„ „ milk	„	134
„ „ peas & beans	„	62
„ „ fruit	„	39
„ „ soups	„	28
„ „ vegetables	„	20
„ or jars of jam	„	47

All fats unfit for human consumption and all meats (other than in tins) were returned to the wholesalers as required by the Ministry of Food.

Where possible, other condemned food was used for animal feeding.

## RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.

191 Premises were inspected by the Rodent Officer in investigating case of Rat Infestations; no treatment was

required in 18 cases. The following indicates action that has been taken.

Area	No. of Premises	Inspections	Prebait	Poisoning	Total Visits
Lymington	75	57	23	91	171
New Milton	44	27	23	72	122
Milford, Hordle and Pennington	72	67	44	51	162

The above visits include action taken at Corporation owned premises. A total of 72 visits were made at the Refuse disposal sites, and poisoning or gassing was done on 35 occasions. The Corporation depots, sewers, allotments, the Danestream and the Sea wall were also inspected and 21 visits for poisoning were made. 28 visits were made to premises requisitioned by the Military, and poisoning was carried out on 8 occasions.

I think it may be said that rat infestation of premises is fairly extensive, and whilst good work is being done at those places where rats are reported or are known to be, there are more cases of re-infestation than is desirable. The re-infestation of properties is, I think, partly due to the Rural nature of the Borough, in so far there are agricultural holdings in the midst of the more built up areas. In this respect I might mention that the War Agricultural Executive Committee through the County Pests Officer are responsible for the administration of the Act so far as agricultural holdings are concerned, the local authority being responsible for all other properties.

## HOUSING.

Forty-four houses were inspected under the Housing or Public Health Acts regarding state of repair or overcrowding. Cases of overcrowding and other unhealthy housing conditions were referred to the Housing Committee, and are being dealt with as other accommodation becomes available.

The labour situation in the building trade is still difficult, and generally there is considerable delay in getting repairs carried out. However, out of 37 houses which were in need of repair, 28 were dealt with during the year. This number included twelve cases where the main roofs were defective.



Action has been taken under the Housing Act in the case of two houses, as a result of which these are both now unoccupied, demolition being deferred until the labour situation has improved.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

There has been a decrease in the number of cases notified this year as compared with 1943. No cases of Diphtheria or of Scarlet Fever were notified in 1944.

The diseases notified were:—

Measles	... 5	Notified 1943	... 10
Puerperal Pyrexia	... 4	„	... Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	... 1	„	... 1
Whooping Cough	... 3	„	... 8
Pneumonia	... 2	„	... 1

Three cases of suspected Diphtheria (not confirmed) were admitted to the Langley House Hospital, one case of Scabies and one of Impetigo were sent to Setley Hospital for treatment.

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Further progress was made during the year, and the percentage of children treated is, I think, highly satisfactory.

During the year a further 198 children under 5 years of age, and 134 children between 5 and 15 years received the protective treatment. It is estimated that 92% of the under fives, and 94% between 5 and 15 years have been treated.

Twenty visits for this purpose have been made at Schools, 5 at the parents' homes, and 44 Clinics have been held. In addition to this, a very great deal has been done by Dr. K. D. Ball at the Child Welfare Centres, where she has given the treatment to 104 children.

### SCABIES.

The Clinic for the treatment of Scabies ceased functioning at the end of 1944, and the arrangement now is that the emulsion is supplied free of charge to patients on production of a Medical Certificate, Instructions for the use of the emulsion are issued at the same time.

159 cases of scabies were treated at the Clinic ; 64 of these were from the New Forest Rural District. A total of 300 treatments were given, 141 being in respect of cases from the New Forest Rural District,

## **TUBERCULOSIS.**

Seventeen cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, three of which were transfers from other districts. Fourteen cases were Pulmonary, and three Non-Pulmonary.

## **GENERAL SURVEY.**

With regard to Infectious Diseases, the total number notified in 1942 was 93, in 1943 the number was 35, and in 1944 the number was 15, which shows a further reduction for 1944. This reduction is not likely to continue, because an epidemic of measles and whooping cough has started since the end of the year. However, it is worthy to note that there have been no cases of Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever in the Borough during 1944.

I have already referred to the protective treatment against Diphtheria which continues to be satisfactory. During the three years I have been here I continued the treatment started by Dr. Hobson, with the result that we have only had three cases of Diphtheria during this period, all of which occurred in 1943. There were 51 cases of Diphtheria during the ten years previous to 1942, giving an average of 5.1 cases per annum, as against an average of one during the three years following. This shows the value of efficient immunisation, and I would like to stress the importance of children being immunised before school age, the younger the better.

Regarding housing conditions in the area, in the absence of any comprehensive data we cannot say with any degree of accuracy what the true position is, but it does appear that the conditions are far from satisfactory, due, very largely, to the building and repair difficulties arising from the war. Much work will have to be done very soon to prevent further deterioration of the position. Personally I feel rather concerned with the housing position, as many people are living under overcrowded or otherwise unsatisfactory conditions,

I must once again express my thanks to the Senior Sanitary Inspector for his unfailing support and help during a difficult year, and also to Mrs Fullerton, whose help with the Clerical work of the Department has been invaluable.

In conclusion, I wish to convey to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my thanks for the consideration shown to the Senior Sanitary Inspector and myself during the past year.

Yours faithfully

E. CROFT WATTS,

Medical Officer of Health.





